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Message Text

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44
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0972

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) OTRA RH ZA
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA: MEETINGS WITH ANC LEADERS

REF: STATE 094210

1. FINALLY, AFTER SUCCESSIVE TRIES DURING PAST THREE DAYS, AT 1600 LOCAL TIME APR 19 I SUCCEEDED IN TELECON CONTACT WITH ANC LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO AT HIS HOME IN BULAWAYO. I EXTENDED SECY'S INVITATION TO MR. NKOMO TO MEET WITH HIM HERE IN ZAMBIA DURING SECY'S APR 26-27 VISIT. MR. NKOMO EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT SECY'S INVITATION AND SAID HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO COME TO LUSAKA, ALTHOUGH HE TOLD ME TRANSPORTATION WAS DIFFICULT. I OFFERED TO CONTACT OUR FRIENDS IN LOCAL MINING COMPANIES WHO I KNEW HAD PUT A PLANE AT HIS DISPOSAL BEFORE; ALSO SAID I COULD MAKE CONTACT WITH STATE HOUSE AS WELL. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR ANY ARRANGEMENTS WE COULD MAKE TO FACILITATE HIS TRAVEL TO ZAMBIA. ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL BE SCHEDULING MEETING FOR SECY WITH NKOMO FOR EVENING OF APR 26 FOLLOWING FONMIN'S RECEP-TION WHEN WE SUBMIT A REDRAFT OF THE LUSAKA SCENARIO.

2. I ASKED NKOMO ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR VISITING LONDON AND HE SAID HE HAD NONE AT THIS TIME.

3. WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF DEPT'S VIEW EXPRESSED IN PARA 2 REFTEL RAISING DOUBTS ON USEFULNESS OF MEETING WITH SITHOLE AS STAND-IN FOR MUZOREWA ON GROUNDS HE "RELATIVELY INACTIVE IN DAR AND HAS LITTLE FOLLOWING OR INFLUENCE". THUS
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RUNS SOMEWHAT COUNTER TO AN APPRECIATION I GOT FROM CHONA

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IN TALKING WITH HIM LAST NIGHT WHEN I SAID IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY MUZOREWA COULD CONNECT WITH SECY DURING HIS BUSY VISIT TO LUSAKA. CHONA SAID THAT WHILE SITHOLE IS INDEED PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO MUZOREWA IN "A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE", SITHOLE IS NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED. HE CONSIDERED IT ADVISABLE THAT SECY MEET WITH HIM. CHONA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SITHOLE WAS WELL INFORMED AND HIGHLY ARTICULATE, WHICH WE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH. AS FOR ELLIOT GABELLAH AS SUBSTITUTE, HE DID NOT COME TO LUSAKA WITH MUZOREWA FOR THE ANC UNITY MEETING, AND MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE INTERNAL MUZOREWA SUPPORTERS REPORTEDLY DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE RHODESIA FOR THIS MEETING. NEVERTHE-LESS WE ARE TRYING TO GET FROM MUZOREWA AN INDICATION OF WHOM HE MIGHT DESIGNATE TO SUBSTITUTE FOR HIM IN MEETING WITH SECY IN LUSAKA. OUR VIEW IS THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR SECY TO MEET WITH SITHOLE THAN WITH NO ONE FROM EXTERNAL ANC WING.
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